



**Barry E. A. Johnson**  
**Senior Advisor and Director of Strategic Initiatives**

Barry Johnson serves as Senior Advisor and Director of Strategic Initiatives for the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) within the U.S. Department of Commerce.

With over 20 years of business experience as an entrepreneur and corporate executive with a focus on public-private partnerships, Barry leads EDA's strategic partnership programs, collaborating with the White House, other federal agencies and regional leaders to implement innovative regional solutions to improve competitiveness and foster economic growth throughout the nation.

Prior to this role, he was founder and managing principal at Acres Development a public-private real estate development and advisory firm. Barry also has an extensive background in starting innovative new businesses within media giants such as the Walt Disney Company and Sony Music Corporation. He was formerly founding President of MSBET a joint venture between Microsoft Corporation and BET Holdings.

Committed to giving back through volunteerism, Barry is an active mentor and motivational speaker on college campuses nationally.

A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Barry earned a Master's degree in Business Administration from the Harvard Business School after receiving Bachelor of Science degrees in Economics and Political Science from Yale College.